

PLAIN TALKS

March 1982



MAIL BOX

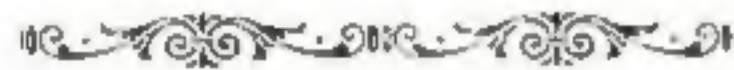
THE COVER

Spring is in the air, and Gulf Staters — and their children — are ready to enjoy the outdoors.

During an outing at the Live Wires Club near Silsbee, two youngsters admire their catch from the small lake.

They are Greg Mutch (leaning over), son of Jim Mutch, and Scott Walker (kneeling), son of Nolan Walker. Both of the fathers work in Power Plant Engineering and Design in Beaumont.

The photograph was taken by Carl Rabalais, also of Power Plant Engineering and Design.



Wayne Sullins
Gulf States Utilities
Beaumont, Texas
Dear Mr. Sullins:

I wanted to take the time to write to tell you how much I appreciated the help one of the men under your supervision gave to me back in December.

I had a flat tire on Highway 61 near Interstate 10 and was trying to fix it alone when Ronnie Copeland stopped to finish the job for me. I was just starting my eighth month of pregnancy and had a two-year-old in the car to keep calm, so I was really grateful that someone would still take the time or risk to be a Good Samaritan. He would accept no pay, so I'll appreciate it if you would thank him again for me. Gulf States should be proud of him.

Thanking you,
Mrs. Don St. Leger

Editor's Note: The writer, an Anahuac resident, was expressing her appreciation to Copeland, who is in the Beaumont Meter Department.

Shivaun Tessier
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Shivaun:

I wish to thank you for all the assistance with in-service that you have given the Staff Development Department of East Baton Rouge Parish schools.

Each session presented by Gulf States Utilities' personnel has been of outstanding quality. Your enthusiasm, creativeness and cooperation have been greatly appreciated.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,
Mertis Edwards
Staff Development Specialist
Editor's Note: Shivaun Tessier is a Public Affairs employee based at the River Bend Energy Center.

J. T. Meinscher
Gulf States Utilities
Lake Charles, La.
Dear Mr. Meinscher:

Recently, the ice storm in our area caused us to be without electricity for approximately 60 hours. As a result, we had to cancel our revival services during that time.

One of your employees and a member of our church, Jo Ann Burnett, asked you for assistance in restoring electricity and you were so kind to send your men to our rescue. You can imagine how thrilled we were when we got word that GSU was sending men to help us.

I know that our area is under Beauregard Electric and that makes us more appreciative that you would allow your men to come to the Ragley-Longville area.

Thank you so much for your kindness to us during this emergency. We will not quickly forget you and Gulf States Utilities Company.

Sincerely,
Thomas E. Magee Jr.
Pastor

PLAIN TALKS

Volume 61
March 1982

Number 2

Published 10 times yearly for employees and annuitants of Gulf States Utilities Company. Produced within the Public Affairs Department, Fred C. Repper, vice president, by the Communications Department, Henry Joyner, manager. Address all communications to Editor, PLAIN TALKS, Gulf States Utilities Company, P. O. Box 2951, Beaumont, Texas 77704, Phone (713) 838-6631.

**Director-Employee
Information/Media Services**
Kim McMurray

Editor:

Susan Gilley

Correspondents:

Adelaide Bankston

Barbara Broussard

Myra Castello

Kathleen Chelette

Connie Herford

Fred Jones

Les Jones

Helen Kennedy

Earl Landry

Edith Patterson

Caey Richert

D. W. Rutherford

Opal Temple

David Thornhill

Doris Wallace

Nina Wiley

W. S. Young

Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

CONTENTS

PLAIN TALKS

Features

6 **A Visit with Paul and Nancy Murrill.** GSU's new chief executive officer and his wife talk about their family life.

8 **Dateline/Jennings . . .** Correspondent Casey Richert offers some insights into this French-flavored town, long the site of a GSU local office.

9 **Texan Serves on Bayou State Task Force.** Tom Whiddon, a 30-year GSU employee based in Beaumont, spent three months on assignment with a Louisiana government cost-cutting team.

10 **A "Turkey" in Pelican Territory.** Since Baton Rouge employee Kutay Mahoney is a native of Turkey, her co-workers have nicknamed her in honor of her homeland.

11 **Tillery Creates Beach Scenes.**

17 **Election Procedures.** Voters in Louisiana and Texas must follow certain procedures to register to vote.



6



8



11

Departments

4 News Briefs — concise reports of company events

8 Library Lines — listings of library resources, services

12 Service Awards — recognition of employees

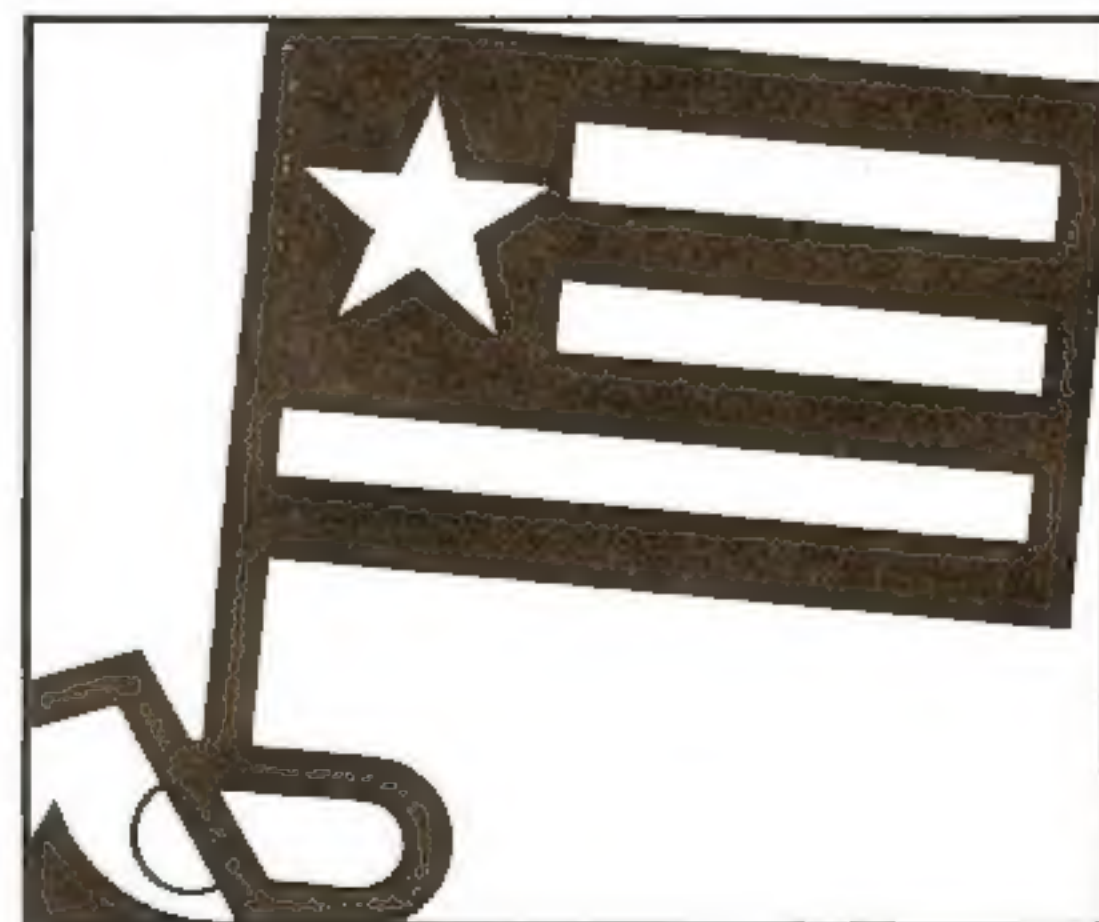
13 Retiree Update — news from retiree clubs in each division

14 Inside GSU — two pages of items of interest to employees

16 On the Move — listings of recent job changes

18 The Light Side — national and international developments

19 Comments — Needy Customers Eligible for Help



17

NEWS BRIEFS

Investments given for Thrift Plan

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during February 1982 covering employee deductions and company contributions through January 1982 included the purchase of 16,745 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$198,846.93. The average cost per share was \$11.875.

The trustee also deposited \$191,420.50 in savings with First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$27,177.95 in guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.



Aubrey Lee fills LGA position

Aubrey P. Lee, general foreman of GSU's Gas Department, was elected president of the Louisiana Gas Association during the group's annual meeting in Lafayette Oct. 5-7. Over 100 attended the session, which was held in conjunction with the state pipeline safety seminar.

The association, with headquarters in Baton Rouge, sponsors public education programs to enhance the use of natural gas and conducts engineering, operating and management programs aimed at safe and reliable production, transmission and distribution practices.

Lee is a 24-year employee of Gulf States.

SAY builds meter lamps

Seven Beaumont Gulf Staters serve as advisers to the officers of a fledgling company — a Junior Achievement company named SAY.

The teenagers manufacture meter lamps from old, discarded 120 volt electric meters. According to Gene Tillery, one of the GSU advisers, the company cannot keep up with the demand for the \$30 lamps, which are made by mounting the spruced-up meters on a wooden base, then wiring a bulb socket through the meters.

Other Gulf States employees serving as advisers are Karl Jackson, Bill Alt, Mike Doyle, John Tarver, Jon Trevelise and John Spivey.

They meet with the company every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. — sometimes twice a week when production goals must be met.

Officers of SAY include Reggie Lightfoot, president; Althea Grant, vice president-administration and secretary; Skeet Eaglin, vice president-finance; David Cannon, vice president-production; Josey Levinson, vice president-marketing; and Billy Oliver, vice president-public relations.

Junior Achievement Inc. is the non-profit corporation, headquartered in Stamford, Conn., that is the "umbrella" for about 250 Junior Achievement operating areas in all 50 states. The purpose of Junior Achievement is "to provide practical and realistic education and experience in the private enterprise economic system."

Although the 8,000 JA high school companies formed each year are not corporations in the strictly legal sense, they still are very real companies. They have stockholders and a board of directors, pay "corporation taxes" on profits — and about 70 percent of all JA companies do show a

profit — distribute wages and salaries, manufacture a product or offer a service and create marketing and distribution systems.

GSU sponsors energy shows

For nearly a decade, GSU has participated in the sponsorship of the traveling "Energy Today and Tomorrow" shows for high school students.

The presentation is made by a young graduate student, usually a science major, who is gifted in keeping the rapt attention of youngsters through their own humor and personality, plus a variety of graphic aids. For instance, one aid is a Van de Graf static electricity device that causes a coed's long hair to stand on end and another is a bicycle that, when pedaled by two husky athletes, indicates how much electricity can be generated to light a bulb, operate a buzz fan and larger power use devices.

The project is made possible by the Oak Ridge Association of Universities, which includes some institutions in our area.

In Louisiana, the show is operated by the University of New Orleans, and in Texas, by North Texas State University.

Thousands of youngsters have witnessed graphically presented, easily understood presentations on the history of energy, the variety of energy sources, how fossil fuels came to be and how long it will be before the supplies are exhausted. The presentations also deal with the immediate and long term energy sources of the future, including nuclear power and the breeder reactor and solar energy.

The students and faculty consistently give high marks to the show, labeling it with such terms as "informative while entertaining," "great at getting students involved" and "they talk the

NEWS BRIEFS

language we understand."

A recent letter received from French High School in Beaumont is typical. It was addressed to Sue Wood, who toured high schools in the Western, Beaumont and Port Arthur divisions early this year.

Signed by 42 students and their teacher, Mrs. F. Ewing, the text of the letter was as follows:

"We enjoyed your presentation on energy very much. It was most interesting and we learned a lot about sources of energy and how they are important to us. Thanks for coming to French High School. We appreciate your efforts."

Lee gives safety awards

The Western Division and Nelson Station won President's Awards for their 1981 safety records. Both the division and the power plant placed first in competition with GSU's other divisions and power plants.



President's Safety Awards are based on a combination of on-the-job disabling injury rates and motor vehicle accident rates. They are presented by GSU President Norman Lee.

Employees in the Western Division, GSU's fastest-growing service area, earned their award by working more than 666,000 man-hours during 1981 with only one lost-time injury. During that time, they also drove more than three million miles and had only 12 chargeable motor vehicle accidents. A chargeable accident is one that the employee could have avoided.

Nelson employees worked 262,185 man-hours and had no lost-time injuries in 1981 and only 10 accidents requiring medical attention. They also drove 92,125 miles with no chargeable vehicle accidents that year.

In the top photograph, Herman Snoe (center) accepts the award on behalf of all Western Division employees from Lee (at left), while Division Vice President John Conley looks on.

In the lower picture, Rene DeBlanc, Nelson Station superintendent, examines the award for the power plant. Standing near DeBlanc are Lee and Murry Greer.

Safety idea nets cash prize

Tom Miller, an electrician at Nelson Station, has been awarded a cash prize under the Employee Suggestion Program for proposing action to correct a possible safety hazard.

Miller suggested using a non-skid paint to mark a safety lane on the ground floors of all units. Because of the humidity of southwest Louisiana, the concrete floors of the units have always been rather slippery.

GSU signs purchase papers

On Feb. 25, GSU signed a contract to purchase large amounts of electricity produced with coal from the Georgia-based Southern Co. Expected to save the company more than 300

billion cubic feet of natural gas, the agreement calls for GSU to purchase 500 megawatts of capacity from June 1984 through May 1992 from The Southern Co.'s four operating units — Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power and Mississippi Power.



Among those signing the papers were GSU's Joe Bondurant (seated at left), executive vice president-operations, and Jim Tullos (at right), supervising engineer for The Southern Co.

According to GSU President Norman Lee, the agreement "will save our customers a great deal of money as natural gas prices continue to escalate while coal costs remain more stable."

A high-voltage transmission line will be built to connect GSU and The Southern Co. for the first time.

The 500-kilovolt line will be about 140 miles long, stretching from a point near Baton Rouge to Plant Daniel, a Mississippi Power coal unit near Gulfport. The Louisiana portion, which is about one-half of the line, will be built by GSU, with Mississippi Power responsible for the remainder.

The contract between GSU and The Southern Co. was to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which regulates the interstate sale of electricity.

A Visit with Paul and Nancy Murrill

by Susan Gilley
Plain Talks Editor

Paul and Nancy Murrill met when they were both students at the University of Mississippi, and both retain hints of the magnolia-soft drawl of that state.

At the time, Mrs. Murrill was a petite, dark-haired history major and Dr. Murrill was a tall, lanky chemical engineering student.

Murrill's latest appointment marks yet another change in a family lifestyle that was already undergoing "a massive time of change," he points out. Two of their three sons have already left home for college, leaving only Britt at home. Both older boys are computer science majors, but 21-year-old Whit attends the University of Alabama, while 18-year-old John attends his parents' alma mater, Ole Miss.

will allow."

But that goal is monumental in itself, the new board chairman concedes. Although he has been officially on the job since March 1, the former chancellor of Louisiana State University, whose most recent job was the Ethyl Corp. in Baton Rouge, spent at least one day a week in Beaumont during the time between his Feb. 4 appointment and the beginning date.

At the time, Murrill told *Plain Talks*, "I am, in effect, trying to finish one job and start another. And the best way to describe it is to say that I have one job that won't quit and another that won't wait."

Wryly, he commented, "The idea that I am quietly reflecting and contemplating what it's going to be like or doing things to prepare myself is an ideal that's not realized. It's almost a survival struggle."

During those early weeks, Murrill was attempting to ease the way for his successor as senior vice president for research and development for the Ethyl Corp., as well as trying to tackle his new GSU responsibilities.

A hectic pace is nothing new for the Murrills, however.

Mrs. Murrill laughingly recalls that university life was anything but placid. She says her husband was at home much more after he left LSU's top administrative post in early 1981 for the Ethyl job, "but now we anticipate a return to the type of pace we had at LSU," she adds.

Even though Murrill was very busy during the seven years he served as LSU's chancellor, he has maintained ties with the academic community because he feels that it helps keep him young. In Beaumont, he has already made contact with the John Gray Institute at Lamar University through his appoint-



Murrill: His family is undergoing "massive" change.

Although the couple has lived in Louisiana since their marriage in 1959, they will begin their 23rd year of married life in Beaumont as Murrill assumes the job of Gulf States' chief executive officer, a position that became his on March 1. Nevertheless, Mrs. Murrill and their 13-year-old son Britt will not move to Beaumont until after the school year ends, a couple of weeks after their May 17 wedding anniversary.

The still-petite, soft-spoken Mrs. Murrill runs her household "with a firm hand," according to her husband. And she is not afraid to admit that she will probably "make my own mistakes" as she assumes the supporting role of wife of the CEO.

"Both of us have felt real anguish when our sons have one by one left home, and I think that we are beginning to worry about that time when the third one leaves home. It has become painfully obvious to us that our lives are changing, just because of the family growing up," Murrill reveals.

"It's obvious that going to a different community involves changes on top of all that, and going to a different job involves a whole other set of changes," he continues.

His family's solution, he says, is "to accommodate ourselves to it very gradually and try to do it as peacefully as the world will allow and as comfortably as conditions

ment as a member of the institute's board of directors. "I'm glad to have that kind of chance to get affiliated with Lamar," he reasserts.

Most of the Murrills' interests outside his job are shared — with one major exception. Murrill is an avid jogger who averages 15 miles per week. At the time of the *Plain Talks* interview, he was recovering from a twisted joint — a situation that made him impatient. "It's all that I can do to wait to get back. I miss it intensely," Murrill said. He has jogged since 1967. Mrs. Murrill, however, prefers to walk for exercise. She also enjoys bird-watching.

Perhaps the most important shared family activities revolve around their church. Southern Baptists, the Murrills have long taken active roles in their church and expect to continue to do so once they locate a new church in Beaumont. Murrill serves on the Baton Rouge church's board of trustees and both have taught Sunday school classes.

A fulltime homemaker, Mrs. Murrill has done volunteer work with a reading laboratory sponsored by a Parent-Teacher Association chapter. Her other work experiences have included a one-year stint as program director for the YWCA and another year as a secretary. However, she says she does not intend to hold a paying job outside her home again.

Despite having a dad who has been in the spotlight for several years, the three Murrill sons have led perfectly normal lives. All have been quite active in sports, participating in football, baseball, basketball and tennis. They also enjoy swimming and water-skiing. Their mother comments, "I don't think they are specially endowed with any athletic prowess. They just enjoy sports."

And two dogs and a cat will also be making the move to Beaumont. Young Britt presently aspires to be a veterinarian when

he grows up — a not-uncommon longing for a boy who loves animals.

The family's Baton Rouge home, located just a few blocks from the LSU campus, is filled with antiques and handcrafted furniture built by her father, who was an attorney in Lexington, Miss.

"Paul and I are very interested in antiques. All through our married life we've been interested. We really like to go antique-hunting in the East and New England areas," Mrs. Murrill reports.

Both Murrills try to stay in

LSU, including a professor, from 1963 through 1981 — the new board chairman feels that his background is quite relevant to the leadership of an electric utility.

Since he was older than Nancy, Murrill spent the three years after his graduation from Ole Miss in the U.S. Navy as an engineering and atomic defense officer aboard ship. Once they were married, they made their first home in Lake Charles, where Murrill was employed by Pittsburgh Plate Glass. He then decided to earn a master's degree



Mrs. Murrill: Predicts a hectic pace for family.

touch with the few relatives they have remaining in Mississippi. An only child, Murrill has only his mother living. Mrs. Murrill has a brother and her mother.

When Murrill was a child in Pochontas, Miss., his father still had a little vision remaining before a congenital disease left him totally blind. "I remember when I was young that he could read the headlines in a newspaper, but he couldn't read the print," Murrill recalls. Growing up with a father who had sight problems endowed Murrill with "tremendous admiration for his courage. I feel he was quite a man," he says.

Despite Murrill's long academic career — he was an employee of

and a doctorate in chemical engineering from LSU. He went to work for the university when those goals were reached. He has served as a member of GSU's board of directors since 1978.

Photos by Bill Benedetto

Dateline/Jennings

by Casey Richert
Plain Talks Correspondent

Of the 42 Gulf Staters based in Jennings, seven can speak fluent French and another employee can understand the language a little.

That's hardly surprising, considering that many of the town's residents are bilingual. Located in the heart of Acadiana, the district office serves 10,727 residential customers, 1,677 commercial customers, 362 industrial customers and more than 20 temporary customers (for hook-ups at construction sites, for instance). Electricity is sold wholesale to 26 nearby cities and towns.

Sandwiched between two larger buildings on Main Street, the Jennings local office staff consists of 10 employees — three Customer Accounting clerks, two Consumer Services employees,

three meter readers, one janitor and District Superintendent O. A. Gann.

Thirty-two employees are based at the service center located on the outskirts of town. They include 22 in the Line Department, seven in the Service Department, two in the garage and one storekeeper.

Jennings employees believe the town has had a local Gulf States office since the 1920s, when the company was incorporated. Although it is a small city still heavily dependent upon agriculture as a way of life, oil also plays a role in the area's economy. Surrounded by rice, soybean and cornfields, as well as pastureland for cattle, the community is located just off Interstate 10 — a busy highway connecting Jennings with the bustling cities of Lake Charles and Lafayette.



Wanda McCrea (at left), local office clerk, and Janette Young, customer contact clerk, are familiar faces to Jennings customers visiting the local office.

LIBRARY LINES

Business Index

by Karen McConnell
Corporate Librarian

One of the most comprehensive listings of business-oriented articles and publications is contained in the "Business Index," which is available through the Corporate Library. It scans more than 500 journals and major newspapers.

Available on microfilm, the index is updated monthly and covers the period from January 1979 until the present. The microfilm is viewed on its own motorized reader, meaning that those using the service do not have to worry about loading film.

Reports Given

A data base entitled "Disclosure" provides extracts

of reports filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by publicly-owned companies. Featuring reports filed by about 11,000 companies, the data base provides the most reliable and detailed source of public financial and administrative data on those companies. "Disclosure" includes extracts of the 10-K and 10-Q financial reports, 20-K financial reports, proxy statements and registration reports. It provides an on-line source of information for marketing intelligence, corporate planning and development, portfolio analysis, legal and accounting research and corporate finance.

Also available on microfiche, the file covers the period from 1977 until the present. It contains

more than 14,000 records and is updated weekly by Disclosure Incorporated of Washington, D.C.

New Books

The Proactive Manager, by Lorne C. Punkett and Guy A. Hale. Wiley, 1982.

Tomorrow's Office Today, by David Birchall and Valerie Hammond. Wiley, 1981

Energy in America, Fifteen Views, University of Southern California Press, 1980.

Energy, The Biomass Options, by Henry R. Bungay. Wiley, 1981.

Energy Systems in the United States, by Asad T. Amr and others. Dekker, 1981.

Texan Serves On Task Force

by Susan Gilley
Plain Talks Editor

A porcelain rendition of a brown pelican — Louisiana's state bird — reposes on a bookshelf in Tom Whiddon's Beaumont office.

The memento is a gift from Louisiana Gov. David Treen and yet another reminder of a three-month experience that taught the 30-year GSU veteran, a native Texan, "more than I thought I ever wanted to know about Louisiana government."

But Whiddon's disclaimer is really in jest because he admits to finding himself intrigued by the politics and governmental operations of the neighboring state.

Whiddon, who has served as executive assistant to President Norman Lee since 1980, was one of 50 men and women assigned in Baton Rouge to the State of Louisiana Governor's Cost Control Commission. Made up of loaned representatives from companies doing business in Louisiana, the group spent the period from mid-November until Feb. 19 reviewing and auditing the operations of the major state government departments.

The commission was assisted by a consulting firm which specializes in cost control projects for governmental entities.

Following a one-day training session on management audit procedures, commission members were divided into several operational and functional teams. While the operational teams were assigned to review individual state departments, the functional teams audited specialized functions within all of the departments.

A longtime GSU management employee in the personnel area, Whiddon was named to the personnel management functional

review team. Other such teams included accounting and finance, data processing, purchasing, building and property management and transportation.

Whiddon recalls that he sometimes had to be careful about which areas of state government he audited. "For example, my reviews of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries didn't involve any problems, but when I reviewed the Department of Natural Resources, I had to avoid any group that had regulatory authority over the company. Because of this, I ended up reviewing the Office of Forestry," he explains. "I wanted to avoid any conflict of interest due to my Gulf States' ties. Other commission members were also careful to sidestep such conflicts," Whiddon notes.

"Essentially, our job was to conduct a management audit of the department being reviewed. We first reviewed background data — legislative authorization, budgets and organization. Doing this provided us with a pretty good preliminary understanding of the department," the Gulf Stater points out.

Next, the commission visited both the Baton Rouge headquarters and major field offices of the department, interviewing lower-level employees as well as department officials.

Other factors coming under scrutiny were budgeting and purchasing procedures, organization structure, staffing levels, lines of authority and communication, sources of funding, department policies and procedures, administrative controls, physical plant and office layout. "Using this approach, we were able to determine whether the department was fulfilling its mission as stipulated in the authorizing legislation, whether there were any unnecessary or redundant operations being performed and whether there were any overlaps with other groups or gaps that

needed to be covered," says Whiddon.

"After we felt we had a thorough understanding of the department and its operations, we prepared a written report covering present operations and providing an overall evaluation of the department," Whiddon comments. Additionally, the team members wrote individual recommendations for changes directed at improving operating effectiveness, cutting costs and enhancing revenue receipts.

Although he found the operational reviews interesting, Whiddon says he especially enjoyed serving on the personnel functional team and devoted much of his time to that assignment.

Just as the other commissioners, Whiddon completed his assignment by going over his reports and recommendations with the head of each department he had reviewed. The reports were also reviewed with Gov. Treen. A final report, consolidating all the reports and recommendations, is to be prepared by the consulting firm and should be ready around May 1.

Even though Gov. Treen assured commission members during a closing Feb. 19 dinner that he was "very pleased with the recommendations" and desired to see as many implemented as possible, he noted that many would require legislative and constitutional changes. That fact could delay implementation of some.



Tom Whiddon

A "Turkey" in Pelican Territory

Kutay Mahoney's friends have fondly dubbed her 'Turkey.'

by Opal Temple
Plain Talks Correspondent

Once upon a time in a faraway land, a physician entertained his wife and daughters on peaceful evenings by reading aloud excerpts from self-help books such as "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

And the daughters, all Turkish-born, followed his advice — one became a lawyer, another became an international merchant and the youngest, Kutay Mahoney, became a Gulf States employee in 1979.

Her route to Baton Rouge was somewhat circuitous. The former Kutay Ogan met Baton Rouge Bill Mahoney when they were both employed by the American firm of Foster-Wheeler during the construction of a steel mill in north Turkey near the Black

Sea. Kutay was interpreter-secretary for the company.

After a two-year courtship, the couple decided to marry. Since Kutay could not obtain a visa to enter the United States, she instead got a visa to enter Canada. About a month after they were married in Montreal, Kutay was able to complete her immigration papers and join her new husband in the states.

Throughout her adult life, Kutay has dealt imaginatively with new challenges.

Since American life was a major adjustment for a native of Turkey, she discovered that watching one of the popular weekday television game shows helped bolster her vocabulary. And she offers good advice for

anyone who must relocate to a new town. "Get a job, even if it is just for 10 or 20 hours a week. That way a person gets to know the people and is more comfortable in the new surroundings," she recommends.

Places of residence for the Mahoneys since their marriage have included Kuwait, Turkey and Las Vegas, Nev., where Kutay was a backstage employee. She assisted entertainers with costume changes and performed necessary repairs, including replacing broken zippers and restitching ripped seams.

Once, Kutay even designed and sewed a formal gown for singer Eydie Gorme.

Dubbed "Turkey" by her friends at Gulf States, Kutay participates in the Baton Rouge office's yearly preparation of Christmas food baskets for needy families.

She and her husband have two children, son Patrick, 14, and daughter Kelly, 15. Both are in classes for gifted and talented students.

Kutay is currently working on her citizenship papers and says she will be a proud American when naturalization is complete.



Kutay Mahoney



Tillery hangs a picture of a sand piper beneath two of the beach theme collages in his office. He made the picture by mixing glue and tinted sand and applying three to four coats of the mixture.



He puts finishing touches on a grandson's toy truck.

● Tillery Creates Beach Scenes



Tillery works on one of his burlap and acrylic pieces.

The beach was one of Gene Tillery's first loves and the 22-year Gulf Stater pays tribute to that longtime romance with his artistic abilities.

During GSU's first art competition for employees last Sept. 8, Tillery won first place in the handcrafts category for his depiction of a beach scene, made by assembling driftwood, shells, pieces of wood, tin and other odds and ends and mounting them on a weathered board.

Tillery, who has no formal art training, says he became interested in the craft a few years ago when he saw similar work done by another artist. That artist, however, specialized in producing rustic country scenes.

Tillery's other pastimes include painting with acrylics on burlap — most of his subjects are sandpipers, crabs or other common beach residents — and carving

similar figures in wood. He also builds wooden toys for his three grandchildren. Once, he even purchased a used portable sewing machine for \$25 and proceeded to stitch up a green canvas coat that he still wears to work. He confesses that his wife refused to let him experiment with her sewing machine.

Tillery says he has never sold any of his works and has participated only in the GSU art show, but he believes that both could easily "get in my blood" if he were to try them.

His wife Shirley and their four grown children — Sharalyn Kay, Charles Edman, Jon Paul and Melody — have encouraged him to participate in Beaumont-area art shows.

For now, though, most of Tillery's creations adorn his beach cabin, his Beaumont home and his Gulf States office.

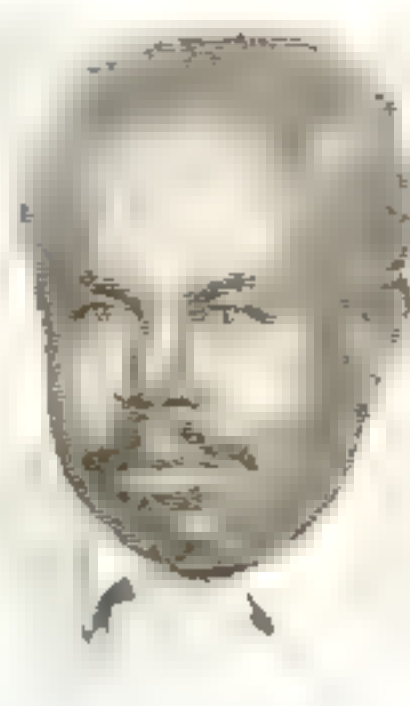
SERVICE AWARDS

40
Years



Bernard L. Campo Jr.
Division Accounting
Baton Rouge

30
Years



Johnnie Hudson
Electric T&D
Port Arthur

20
Years



Charles M. Decuir
Consumer Services
Conroe

10
Years



Edgar Fenner Jr.
Electric T&D
Conroe



Frank A. Lemire
Accounting Services
Beaumont



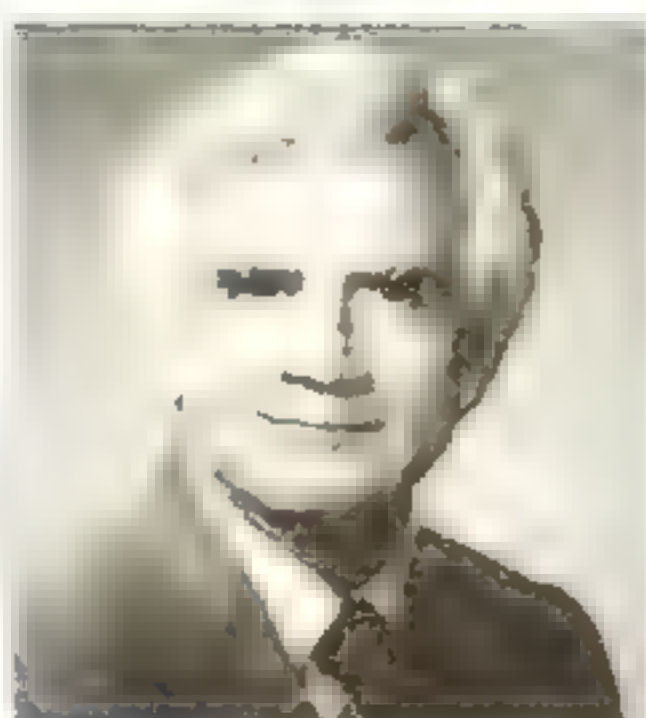
David Doss
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Irby J. Thibodeaux
Building Services
Beaumont



Joe R. Bowen
T&D Line
Cleveland



Ward C. McCurtain
Public Affairs
Beaumont



John A. Landry
Plant Production
Nelson Station



Bobby J. Willis
Executive Department
Beaumont



Davis E. Moulder
T&D Line
Cleveland



Edwin H. Wheeler Jr.
Engineering Design
Beaumont

RETIREE UPDATE

Daughter reports on parents

Betty G. Walker contacted *Plain Talks* about the deaths of her parents in 1980 and 1981, explaining that she has since run into several Gulf Staters who were not aware that Edgar L. and Eva Scherer Granau had died.

Granau, who was with the Company from 1920 until 1962, died on June 9, 1980, shortly after he and his wife had moved from Lake Charles into a new home in Temple, Texas. Mrs. Granau died on May 31, 1981.

In addition to Mrs. Walker, who lives in Temple, the Granaus are survived by three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Deaths given

Among retirees who have died since early December are James D. Behrens of Baton Rouge, who died Dec. 7; Ira C. Moore of Cadiz, Ky., who died Dec. 19; and Henry L. Landry of Lake Charles who died Feb. 13.

Behrens is survived by his wife Lucille, while Landry is survived by his wife Hilda.

Efferson dies in Baton Rouge

William A. "Bill" Efferson, 78, of Port Allen died Feb. 16 at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge.

A native of Livingston Parish, he was a retired GSU supervisor and a veteran of World War I.

Survivors include his wife, Laura Dupuy Efferson of Port Allen; one daughter, Beverly Morales of Denham Springs; three sons, William A. Efferson of Baton Rouge, James R. Efferson of Chelsea, Ala., and Joseph R. Efferson of Shreveport; one brother, Russell K. Efferson of Baton Rouge, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Retirees honored at Sabine Station

Sabine Station employees honored two new retirees on Feb. 12 with a chili dinner with all the trimmings, reports O. V. McNeil.

Guests of honor were Artis Foreman and James Peveto, both of whom were equipment operators. Each had worked for the company for 43 years, beginning their careers at the old power plant in Orange. They have also worked at Neches Station in Beaumont. Each new retiree received a large ash rocking chair, a gold quartz wristwatch, a leather belt with a buckle and a gift of cash.

In the photograph, Peveto is at left and Foreman is at right.

Trip planned to World's Fair

Forty-two reservations have already been made for persons interested in making a Sideliners Club-sponsored trip to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., this May.

According to Beaumont retiree Al Bowen, retirees and their spouses or guests from the Beaumont Division will participate in the six-day, five-night trip.

Planned by the Beaumont Division Sideliners Club, the trip will cost \$400 per person, which covers the fare for the chartered bus, tickets to various functions, six meals and hotel accommodations (based on double occupancy).

The deadline for submitting the fee is April 15, although reservations are now being accepted. Those wishing to participate should notify Bowen at 840 Goodhue Road, Beaumont, Texas 77706, specifying whether single or double accommodations are desired.

An itinerary for the trip follows:

— On May 11, bus will leave the Beaumont Service Center parking lot at 7 a.m. and should arrive at the Choo-Choo Hilton in Chattanooga, Tenn. at 8 p.m.

— On May 12, breakfast at the hotel will be at 7 a.m., a tour of Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain will begin at 9 a.m. and a gourmet banquet will be held in the Hilton at 7 p.m.

— On May 13, breakfast will be at 7 a.m. and the group will leave for the World's Fair in Knoxville at 9 a.m.

— On May 14, breakfast at the hotel will be at 7 a.m. and the group will again leave for the World's Fair at 9 a.m.

— On May 15, breakfast will be at 7 a.m., the group will leave for Opryland at 9 a.m. and will attend a 6 p.m. show at the Grand Ole Opry.

— On May 16, breakfast will be at 6 a.m., guests will check out of the Hilton from 7-7:30 a.m. and leave Chattanooga for Beaumont at 8 a.m. Anticipated arrival time in Beaumont is 9 p.m.

Masterson dies in Beaumont

Paul Masterson, 75, of Beaumont died Feb. 21 in his home.

A native of Buna and a Beaumont resident for 55 years, he was a retired director of collections for GSU.

He is survived by his wife, the former Leonora O'Neal, who was director of home services for GSU for many years.



LaCombe dies in Lafayette

Horace "To To" LaCombe, 50, of Lafayette died Feb. 17 in Lafayette General Hospital.

He was a meter reader supervisor of GSU and a 29-year employee of the company.

A native of Evangeline, LaCombe had been a resident of Lafayette for the past 40 years. He was also employed by the Louisiana State Racing Commission for 14 years.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy D. LaCombe of Lafayette; three sons, Timothy LaCombe of Breaux Bridge, Harmon LaCombe of Scott and Zeb LaCombe of Lafayette; two stepsons, Michael Henry of Crowley and Mark Henry of Lake Arthur; his mother, Della F. LaCombe of Jennings; three brothers, Adam LaCombe of Lafayette, Andrus LaCombe of Sweeney, Texas, and Russell LaCombe of Iota, and two grandchildren.

Co-op student makes 4.0

Dan Williams, a Lamar University student who has just begun his second term of employment with the Port Arthur Division as a cooperative student, earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the fall semester.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Loraine Dunham, Williams is a senior at Lamar, where he is a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the

Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers.

Couple readies for twins



Dennis and Eva Singletary of Lake Charles were recently honored with a baby shower by Lake Charles Division employees.

The couple is expecting twins. They already have two sons, 9-year-old Jon and 5-year-old Nathan.

Singletary is accounting superintendent for the division.

Jasper given farewell party



Tom Jasper, former supervisor of planning and administration for Willow Glen Station, was honored with a farewell party shortly before he left the power plant for a new position in Beaumont.

Co-workers gave Jasper a pen and pencil set, reported *Plain Talks* correspondent Lydia Mitchell.

Jasper now serves as plant maintenance system supervisor.



Division holds food drive

Thirteen needy families and elderly citizens received food baskets assembled by the Baton Rouge Division during its annual Christmas food drive.

Division employees contributed food and money, with the money being used to buy turkeys, hams, fruit and other perishable items. One family, whose home had been destroyed by fire, received food and toys for their four children.

Shown arranging the baskets are (from left to right) Kutay Mahoney, Monica Minor, Mamie Burrell, Peggy Evans and Annette Scott.



Robillard wins Yule wreath

Vicki Robillard, a clerk in the credit department at the Baton Rouge North Boulevard office, won a Christmas wreath given by the office.

The drawing was held on Dec. 23.

Youth wins poetry contest

Erin O'Neill, the daughter of Ann O'Neill of the Human Resources Department in Beaumont, recently penned a prize-winning poem.

The seventh-grader won first place among her classmates for the following entry:

A Smile

A child being happy
just to be with his mother,
Or a special relationship
between a sister or a brother.

A happy couple
walking on a bright and sunny day,
Or a bird high on its perch
singing the time away.

People define this emotion
in many different ways,
But all of the causes
are endless to say.

It comes from the heart
but shows upon your face,
It is that warm feeling inside
that you cannot easily erase.

It's a smile!



Twins celebrate 1st birthday

Twins Keith and Kevin Harrison celebrated their first birthday Feb. 3. They are the sons of Diania Harrison of the Baton Rouge credit department.

Her other children are 12-year-old Yolanda and 9-year-old Michael.



Gouldin given lingerie shower

Sheila Gouldin, a clerk in Lake Charles credit and collections, was honored with a lingerie shower hosted by her co-workers shortly before her Feb. 13 wedding.

She married Gus Johnson of Lake Charles, according to *Plain Talks* correspondent Kathleen Chelette.



Clayton earns degree at Tech

Thomas Richard "Rick" Clayton Jr. earned an associate of science degree in engineering drafting technology from Louisiana Tech University on Nov. 23.

He is the son of Thomas Clayton Sr., who is service supervisor for Electric T&D in Baton Rouge.

Young Clayton now lives in Baton Rouge, where he is employed by Bovay Engineers Inc.

Coach praises Vidor youth



Vidor High School basketball coach Mark Weir described Mark Stirling as "the best guard I have ever coached."

The 5-foot, 7-inch basketball player is the son of Tom and Carolyn Stirling. His father is director-consumer services in Beaumont.

A talented artist, Mark is also an honor student who has been named to both Who's Who of American High School Students and the National Honor Society.

ON THE MOVE

Adams, Ronald D. Jr., Beaumont, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Anderson, Wade A., Nelson Station, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production

Augustus, Wayne L., Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production

Bagley, Charles J., Lake Charles, to apprentice, Electric T&D

Barrett, Vickey J., Nelson Station, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production.

Benefield, Walter E. Jr., Baton Rouge, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Blanchard, Mark G., Louisiana Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Boudreaux, Paul L., Orange, to utility foreman, T&D Substation

Boyd, James P., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Bremer, Nellie F., Baton Rouge, to engineering helper, Electric T&D.

Broussard, Brenda C., Port Arthur, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services

Bruington, John R., Conroe, to storekeeper, Electric T&D

Carroll, Aubrey J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Cartwright, Thomas C., Orange, to utility man, Electric T&D.

Chandler, James H., formerly of Louisiana Station, to outage foreman, Willow Glen Station, System Production

Choute, Susan M., Oak Ridge Plaza, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting

Collier, Charles A., Beaumont, to security & systems representative, General Services.

Costilla, Raymond Jr., Port Arthur, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Cowles, Julia P., formerly of Nelson Coal Plant, purchasing agent, to Conroe, Materials Management.

Day, Floyd D., Louisiana Station, to second fireman, Plant Production

Derbonne, Donald R., River Bend Site, to supervisor-preoperational testing, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Didier, Merri L., Baton Rouge, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services

Dobbs, Joseph W., Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D

Dumas, Dan G., Sabine Station, to unit supervisor, Plant Production.

Elisur, GERALYN A., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Gas Dept

Ener, Norman W. III, Neches Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Estes, Charles A., Conroe, to service supervisor, T&D Service

Evans, Thomas C., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Everett, Raymond E., formerly of Willow Glen Station, to storeroom foreman, Louisiana Station, Plant Production

Faggard, James V., Sabine Station, to unit supervisor, Plant Production

Farque, Rickie L., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Forbes, Harry S., Beaumont, to staff accountant, Accounting Services

Fulton, Brian K., Sabine Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

Furrate, Lynda V., Baton Rouge, to consumer services representative, Division Consumer Services.

Gaspard, Sandra K., Beaumont, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

Gipson, Melba A., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Division Accounting

Glach, Robert L., Beaumont, to system relay foreman, System Engineering

Gonzales, Ricky, Orange, to apprentice, Electric T&D

Graham, Clinton B., River Bend Site, to supervisor-preoperational testing, River Bend Nuclear Group.

Granger, Stephen F., Orange, to lineman 3rd class, Electric T&D

Grubbs, Rayford, L., Port Arthur, to safety representative, Division Operations.

Guillot, Joseph R. Jr., Nelson Coal, to repairman 1st class, Plant Production.

Guttery, Frederick D., Baton Rouge, to serviceman 2nd class, Electric T&D

Hancock, James G., formerly of Sabine 5 site, to security & systems representative, General Services.

Hardy, Ernest D. Jr., Nelson Station, to repairman 2nd class, Plant Production.

Harris, Lanny K., Willow Glen Station, to outage foreman, System Production.

Harrison, Oscar L., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic 3rd class, Electric T&D

Harvey, David M., Lewis Creek Station, to planning coordinator, Plant Production

Hebert, Neal J., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Hemby, John W., Beaumont, to foreman-building & grounds, General Services

Henderson, Charles, Beaumont, to security & systems representative, General Services

Henry, Gary W., Louisiana Station, to operator's helper, Plant Production

Hines, Charlie L., Cleveland, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Hitefield, Thomas L., Lake Charles, to garage mechanic helper, Electric T&D.

Hoffpauir, Kenneth R., Sabine Station, to unit supervisor, Plant Production.

Hooks, Chester B. Jr., Huntsville, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Howell, Lewis B., Beaumont, to supervisor-internal audits, Internal Audits.

Jenkins, Edward O., Willow Glen, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production

Johnson, Ellis Jr., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Jones, Carliss M., formerly of Beaumont Division, to secretary, Neches Station, Plant Production.

Jones, Walter W., Baton Rouge, to right-of-way agent, System Engineering.

Joubert, Christopher, Gonzales, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Kunkel, Chris A., Beaumont, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Lawson, Donald B., Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Leger, Lonnie D., Beaumont to utility foreman-building & grounds, General Services

Levine, Percy A., formerly of Nelson Station, to safety representative, Nelson Coal Plant, Human Resources.

Louque, Sandra M., Louisiana Station, to operator's helper, Plant Production

Lytle, Dennis A., Baton Rouge, to helper, Gas Dept.

Mangham, Marolon G., Willow Glen Station, to supervisor-accounting & administration, Plant Production.

Marchesseault, Jesse L. Jr., Denham Springs, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Martin, Ronald E., Port Arthur, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

McCarter, Donald R., Beaumont, to director-loss prevention, General Services.

McCormick, Daniel B., formerly of Beaumont, to Materials Management, Nelson Coal Plant.

McGee, Lora R., Conroe, to energy auditor, Division Consumer Services.

McNeil, Odea V., Sabine Station, to unit supervisor, Plant Production.

Minton, Edward K., Willow Glen, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Moore, Gloria H., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Office Services

Moore, Tommy L., Conroe, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Nelson, Gerald E., Port Arthur, to engineering assistant, Plant Production.

Netherland, David C., Willow Glen Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

Oliver, John M., formerly of Lake Charles, to supervisor-internal audits, Beaumont Internal Audits.

Owens, Keith A., Nelson Coal, to repairman 3rd class, Plant Production.

Jones, Walter W., Baton Rouge, to right of way agent, System Engineering

Parsons, Eldon G., Beaumont, to engineering assistant, Real Estate

Perez, Daniel Jr., Conroe, to communications serviceman 2nd class, Elec. T&D

Perkins, Edgar Jr., Beaumont, to collector, Division Accounting.

Perkins, Kelvin A., Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Perrin, Stephen E., Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman 1st class, Electric T&D.

Petitjean, John C., Lafayette, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Powell, Gary D., Conroe, to apprentice, Electric T&D

Prothro, John T., Beaumont, to senior purchasing agent, Materials Management.

Pulliam, Louis R., Zachary, to lineman 1st class, Electric T&D

Robicheaux, Joseph A., Lafayette, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D

Robillard, Daniel J., Louisiana Station, to operator's helper, Plant Production.

Robinson, James M., formerly of Louisiana Station, to shop foreman, Plant Production Willow Glen Station

Russian, Joseph L., Beaumont, to security & systems representative, General Services.

Savoy, Joe E., Beaumont, to construction inspector, Transmission Construction.

Sheets, Malcolm J., Gonzales, to apprentice, Electric T&D

Smith, Dan L., Louisiana Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Smith, Kenneth W., Willow Glen, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Sonnier, Kenneth J., Nelson Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Stephens, George C., Beaumont, to energy aid for Division Consumer Services

Stephenson, Robert T., formerly of Denham Springs, to materials coordinator, Baton Rouge Transmission Construction

Strickland, Donald L., Willow Glen Station, to planning coordinator, Plant Production

Swiger, Arthur B., Beaumont, to building & grounds maintenance man, Building Services.

Taliaferro, Thomas B., Port Arthur, to master test technician, Plant Production.

Teekel, Jerome P., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Thibodeaux, Phillip C., Port Arthur, to lineman 2nd class, Electric T&D

Thompson, George E. Jr., Slidell, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D

Thompson, Oscar C., Orange, to substation foreman T&D Substation

Trahan, Clinton P., Lake Charles, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Turner, James A., Beaumont, to associate systems analyst, Computer Applications

Vance, Robert D., Port Arthur, to repairman-3rd class, Plant Production

Verrette, Raymond, Louisiana Station, to repairman 1st class, Plant Production

Wagner, Steven T., Willow Glen Station, to test foreman, Plant Production

Watson, Harold H. Jr., Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D

White, Leonard D., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D

Williams, Karl D., Nelson Coal, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Wilson, Sandra K., Neches Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production

Woods, Charles H., Nelson Station, to test technician 1st class, Plant Production

Election Procedures

by Sharon Englade

Red, white and blue crepe paper. Bumper stickers. Yard signs. An occasional billboard. Town hall meetings. They all add up to one thing — elections. And the 1982 season is just opening.

The GSU governmental affairs managers, Bob Jinnette in Austin and Earl Broussard in Baton Rouge, are urging all Gulf Staters to study the issues, to get to know the candidates' positions and, most important, to get out and support the candidate of your choice on election day.

Every state, of course, has its own election schedule, as well as provisions for special elections. Some Louisianans and Texans will be going to the polls April 3, the first Saturday in April, to elect municipal officials and, in some Texas communities, school boards. Runoff elections, if necessary, will be held in Louisiana on May 15 and in Texas, April 17.

The next scheduled election in the Bayou State comes on Sept. 11 when the eight U.S. congressional seats are on the line. In contested races with three or more candidates, the two top vote-getters will square off in the general election Nov. 2. Also on the Nov. 2 ballot are two constitutional amendments, both dealing with ad valorem taxes on boiler fuels. Gulf States was instrumental in getting the amendment to exempt utility boiler fuels from property taxes through the 1981 Legislature. The

second amendment deals with boiler fuels used by non-utility industries in the state.

Louisiana, unlike Texas, conducts what are known as "open" elections, which means all candidates, no matter the political party affiliation, are on one ballot. A candidate garnering the majority of votes is declared winner. If there is no majority, the two who received the most votes are in the runoff, or general, election.

The Lone Star State holds closed primaries, with each party conducting its own election and selecting the party nominee. The primary winners from each party vie in the general election. Texas Democrats and Republicans are scheduled to go to the polls May 1 for the primary elections, with runoffs set for June 5. The general election is Nov. 2.

The first step in becoming active in the political process is registering to vote. In Louisiana, the parish registrar of voters handles this matter and the applicant must list his party affiliation in order to participate

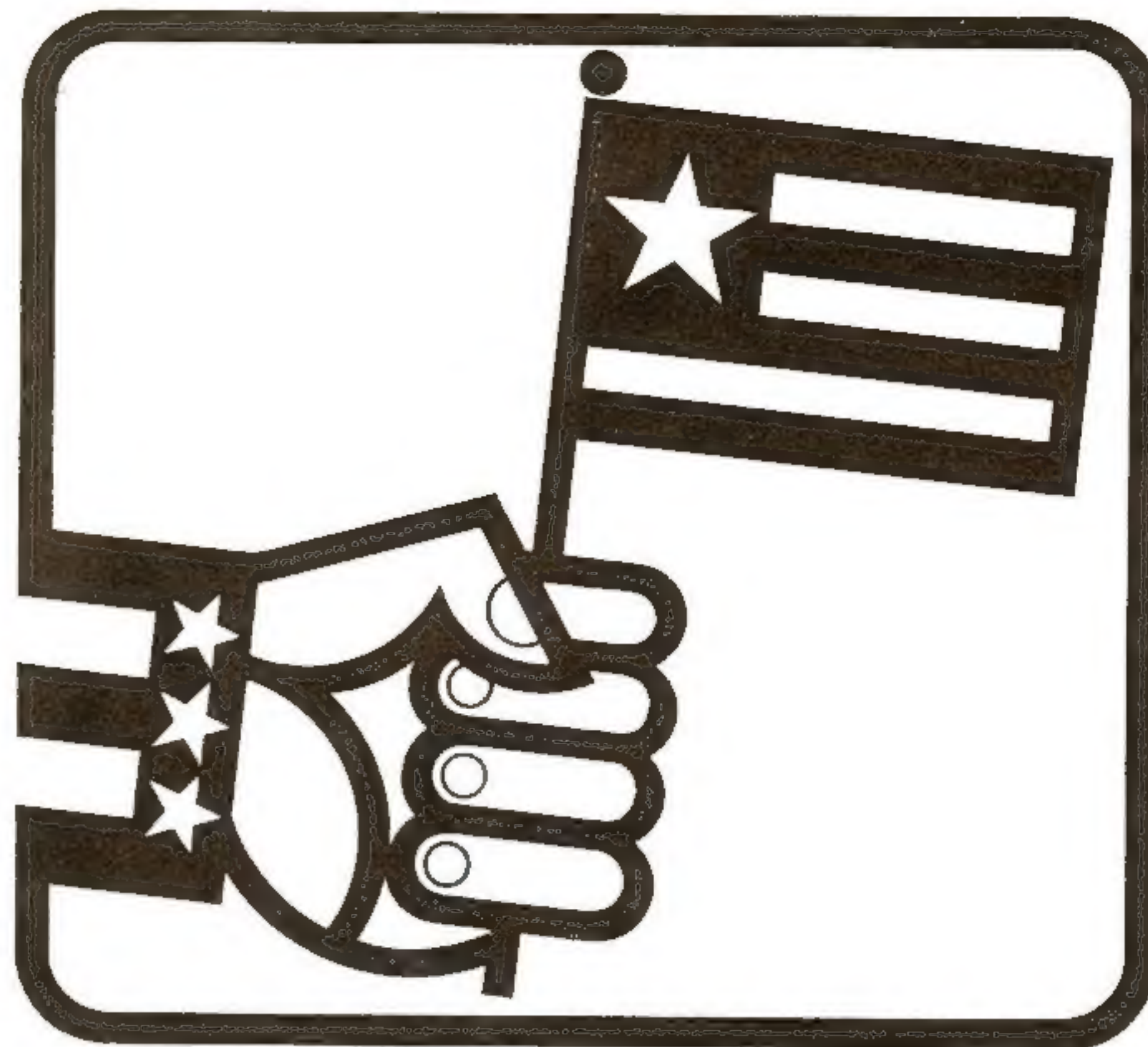
in selecting the party's state central and parish executive committees. There are provisions for changing parties or for registering to vote without party affiliation.

In Texas, county tax assessor-collectors are responsible for registering voters who become members of a political party by voting in that party's primary.

"Keep up with what's going on in the political arena," advised Jinnette. "Meet the candidates and question them on their positions about matters of interest to you," he suggested.

"One of the strong considerations should be the candidates' views and actions affecting your company, which, after all, is your future," said Broussard.

"It all comes back to you, the voter. If you don't take the time to do your homework and go to the polls, don't complain when your elected officials disappoint you," the Louisiana government affairs manager said.



Coal industry urges step-up of acid rain study

Unanswered questions should not be an excuse for delay in addressing the controversial issue of acid rain, the U.S. coal industry told a congressional subcommittee in early December, 1981. The industry gave its strong endorsement to legislation intended to accelerate research into the causes and effects of the environmental phenomenon.

Joseph W. Mullan, senior vice president for environmental affairs at the National Coal Association, said that while acid deposition exists and has varying effects, the scientific community has only a questionable data base from which to derive conclusions, and those conclusions often are in conflict.

"No one has been able to determine the extent to which airborne emissions are contributing to the acidification of deposition, whether wet or dry. Likewise, no one can determine what effect man-made emission reductions would have on current levels of acidity," Mullan testified.

Mullan said that in the absence of scientific evidence of the causes and effects of acid deposition, new, more stringent regulation of emissions should not be imposed.

"The American people have the right to expect that their government will not impose an additional multi-million dollar program without first determining with some certainty commensurate social and environmental benefits," Mullan argued.

He called for a well-defined research effort concentrating on three objectives:

- Extending and refining the current data base to eliminate problems confronting scientists because of varying sampling techniques, disparate frequencies of sampling, different analytical techniques and faulty quality control.

- Developing better understanding of the transport, transformation and deposition processes related to acidification.

- Devising a rational approach to solving acid deposition problems and a thorough study of the benefits of coal cleaning as a means of removing some pollutants before burning.

Airport plans to undertake coal study

The Greater Pittsburgh International Airport is attempting to undertake a feasibility study on the utilization of underground coal mine fire heat to produce electricity.

That proposed study was discussed in the Dec. 21, 1981, edition of *Energy User News*. Preliminary studies reportedly showed that at a cost of \$2.5 million for the generating equipment, the airport could save 50 percent, or \$1.5 million per year, on electric bills for a 7½-year period.

The airport property was the site of a coal mine years ago and residual coal veins burn slowly now through spontaneous combustion.

Garbage to fuel proposed plant

Commonwealth Electric Company, a unit of Commonwealth Energy System has reportedly signed a 27-year contract valued at \$250 million to buy electricity from a proposed plant that will convert garbage into energy.

According to the Jan. 5, 1982, edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, construction of the proposed \$124 million plant, which is being developed by Energy Answers Corp. of Albany, N.Y., will be completed in 1984. The Rochester, Mass., plant will burn garbage in the conversion process.

There is at least one other U.S. plant like the proposed one — and

it is owned by Semass Partnership of Rochester, N.Y.

Coalition forms to promote slurry pipelines

Organizations representing consumer, labor and industry groups have formed a coalition to promote more competition for the transportation of the growing quantities of American coal being used here and abroad.

The Alliance for Coal and Competitive Transportation (ACCT) will concentrate its activities in support of pending legislation to grant federal eminent domain authority necessary for the prompt construction of interstate coal slurry pipelines.

Founding members of the ACCT include the American Association of Retired Persons, American Consulting Engineers Council, American Public Power Association, Building and Construction Trades Department (AFL-CIO), Consumer Federation of America, Eastern Coal Transportation Conference, Edison Electric Institute, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Union of Operating Engineers (AFL-CIO), Laborers International Union of North America (AFL-CIO, CLC), Mining and Reclamation Council, National Coal Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (AFL-CIO), Slurry Transport Association, Western Coal Traffic League and Western Fuels Association.

Carl E. Bagge, chairman of ACCT, said competition in the transportation of coal is essential today to ensure that railroads do not abuse their present monopoly position in shipping coal. For 85 percent of the coal now moved by rail, there is no feasible alternative mode of transportation, he said.

Needy Customers Eligible for Help

This nation has always responded with compassion to the victims of crises. The rising cost of energy is a new kind of emergency and help must be provided.

In these days of escalating prices and fixed incomes, the hardest hit are the poor and elderly, the people who must struggle and sacrifice to meet their financial obligations, including their utility bills.

The federal government, working through the states, is providing direct financial aid to low-income households needing help with their energy bills, and Gulf States Utilities Co., recognizing its responsibility to all customers, is making its own affirmative effort to help.

The assistance programs — the government's and Gulf States' — benefit not only the poor and elderly, but other customers as well. By reducing the number of unpaid utility bills, Gulf States will not have to pass these costs on to the paying customers.

Texas, which will administer its federal low-income energy assistance block grant funds through the Department of Human Resources, will be receiving between \$31.6 million and \$39.8 million for fiscal 1982.

Although there had been some discussion in Austin of having energy assistance payments going directly to the local utility company or companies on behalf of aid recipients — the method of payment supported by most of the utility industry — Texas will continue to make payments to the qualified households.

Gulf States has no quarrel with this decision because, first, administrative costs are lower and, second, the company has confidence its low income customers make diligent efforts to pay their electric bill.

State officials have explained that a vendor payment system is appreciably more expensive than direct payment to aid recipients. And funds spent for administrative costs mean less money for the stated intent of the program — energy assistance for low-income families.

The company recognizes, contrary to supposition, that it is not low-income households that constitute the majority of "charge-offs," bills that cannot be collected and must be shared by paying customers. A recent study conducted by GSU revealed that less than 8 percent of the uncollectible money was owed by families with annual incomes below \$15,000.

For the customer in the middle of a financial emergency, Gulf States offers indirect assistance in paying the utility bill.

In Beaumont and two other large GSU offices, trained personnel, known as consumer affairs coordinators, work directly with customers who are involved in a crisis situation — perhaps a death or serious illness in the family or the late arrival of a public assistance payment. These are the customers who would pay if they could but who, through circumstances beyond their control, are unable to do so promptly.

The coordinators meet with the customer and arrange for payment when his or her money arrives. In extreme cases, they can refer the individual to one of the community agencies that might have funds available for utility bills.

Getting the utility bill paid is not their only concern. Because of their training and their interaction with private and government assistance agencies, the coordinators are frequently able

to steer a destitute customer to a group prepared to help with food, clothing or other support.

Available to most customers, but especially beneficial to those living on fixed incomes, is the equal payment plan which allows those who qualify to pay the same amount each month for electric service. Adjustments are made at the end of the 12-month period. This payment method, of course, enables customers to accurately budget for their utility bill each month.

Gulf States has also taken the lead in offering training to community groups involved in low-cost weatherization projects for low-income residents. By weatherstripping and caulking, the low-income customer is reducing his energy usage.

The GSU assistance programs, while they don't pay the customers' utility bills, represent a more traditional way of lending a helping hand to those in need: one-on-one and self-help rather than reliance on government assistance.

Gulf States recognizes it has a social obligation to work with government agencies and on its own to assist the needy with their energy costs, not only for the benefit of the elderly and poor, but for all consumers who must share in the costs of the uncollectible dollars.

PLAIN TALKS

P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 7

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Beaumont, Texas
Permit No. 11

Q. What's the greatest source of air pollution?

A.

Surprisingly, most of the pollutants in the air don't issue from smokestacks or tailpipes. They come from natural processes like decay of organic matter, sea spray, photochemical oxidation, lightning, volcanic action and forest fires. Here's what nature is responsible for:

- 55% of the particulates
- 65% of the sulfur dioxide
- 70% of the hydrocarbons
- 90% of the ozone
- 93% of the carbon monoxide
- 99% of the carbon dioxide
- 99% of the nitrogen oxides

